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The American Observer

A free, virtuous and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe

VOLUME VI, NUMBER 48

WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUGUST 16, 1937

No Action Expected On Pure Food Bills

Law Passed in 1906 Is Providing
Nation with Protection
for Consumers

COPELAND BILL FORGOTTEN

Senate Has Passed Measure but House
Committee Cannot Agree on
Enforcing Agent

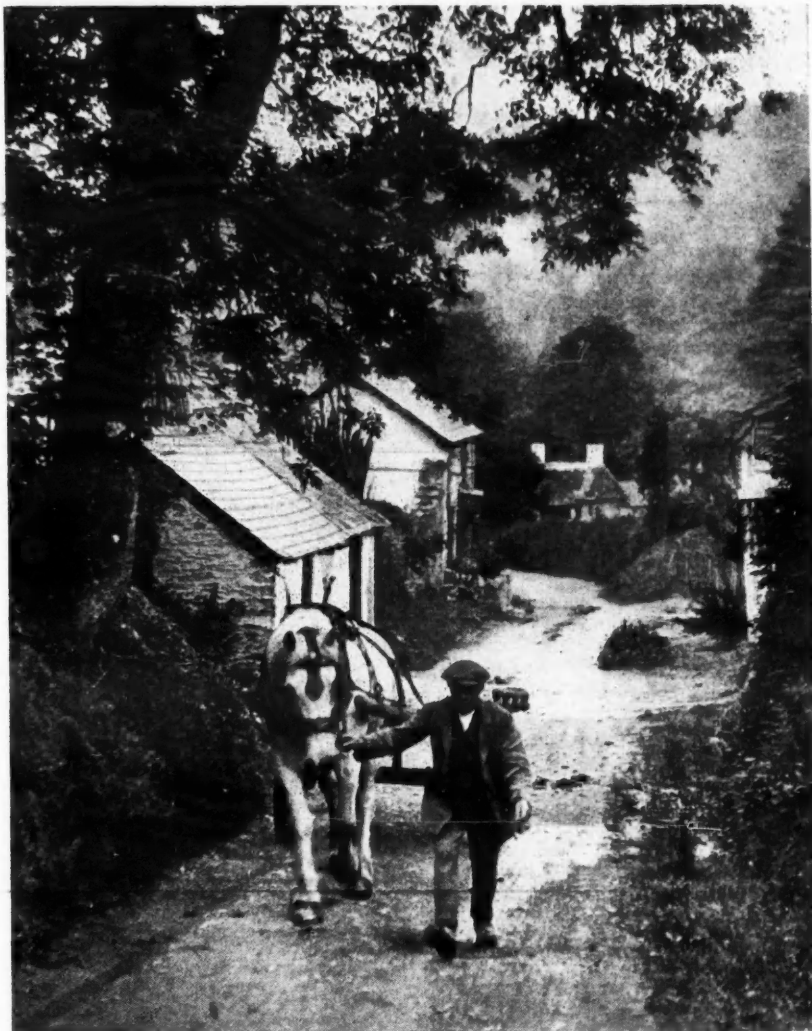
A law passed in 1906 provides the only regulation which the federal government has over the food and drugs sold to the 130 million consumers of the United States. Many sessions of Congress, including the present one, have considered legislation designed to strengthen the control of the Food and Drug Administration over manufacturers, but the legislation has never reached the statute books. Either the influence of the manufacturers and advertising agencies has been strong enough to prevent Congress from passing a bill, or else a rivalry between the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission over which agency shall enforce the new laws has deadlocked Congress. With the present Congress going into its final sessions, it is highly probable that the same fate awaits the bills now being considered to give more adequate food and drug regulation, and it will be left to another Congress to provide real protection for the consumer.

Law 31 Years Old

For 31 years, the Food and Drug Administration has been functioning under the original Food and Drug Act. The forerunner of that law was a regulation in 1900 calling for the inspection of dairies. This measure started the movement for food sanitation and purity, and from then until 1906 there was continuous agitation for some sort of inspection and control of merchandise sold to the public. Many prominent writers joined in the crusade. Walter Lippmann and Mark Sullivan, two widely known columnists of the present day, were among those campaigning for food and drug laws. One of the most influential factors was a book by Upton Sinclair, "The Jungle," which revealed unsanitary practices of Chicago slaughterhouses; public opinion was so aroused by this novel that legislation providing for the inspection of meat was passed. The patent medicine business was also attacked by the food and drug factions, and partial regulation was undertaken.

The original bill has been amended only four times. Under this rather sketchy legislation, the Food and Drug Administration has attempted to build up protection for the consumers against the shady practices of unscrupulous manufacturers. The Administration has its headquarters in Washington in the Department of Agriculture, of which it is a division, but it has branch offices and laboratories in many parts of the country. It tests and examines thousands of food products and drugs every year, and when it finds a violation of its regulations, it holds an investigation of its own. The defendant is called before the Administration, and if enough evidence is secured to show that he has violated the provisions of the Food and Drug Act, he is tried in a federal court. During 1936 there were 1,190 prosecutions based on charges of

(Concluded on page 6, column 1)



AFTERNOON IN ENGLAND

Habits Which Educate

Education is not the hardest of plants. It flourishes, indeed, with cultivation, but responds as quickly to neglect, withering inevitably when unattended. It never reaches maturity, its life and vitality depending upon an unending growth. The peculiarity of its nature is too often ignored. Young men and women, and sometimes teachers, are satisfied with a static interpretation of education. Students think of it as something of fixed dimensions, something they can get hold of, acquire, possess. They seek information in specified fields for a stated time. They acquire a body of useful knowledge and of fruitful ideas. Then they graduate. They are educated. Perhaps after that they are satisfied with activities which are not educative. They do not continue the habits, through the exercise of which they have been growing in intellectual and spiritual power.

Then what happens? For an answer to that question one needs but associate for a while with a number of men and women, five, ten, or fifteen years after the school doors have closed behind them. Many of them have forsaken the habits of the school days. They are no longer reading that which inspires, no longer gaining fresh information, no longer acquiring knowledge and reaching in the direction of wisdom. They are no longer distinguishable from those who never possessed that which was called an education. They have lost themselves in the common herd. It is the duty of teachers to see to it that the young people in their charge do not go the way of mediocrity. They must somehow see that those who are capable of a continuing education shall not miss it. How can that result be achieved?

It will be achieved if students are led to acquire habits of reading, thinking, conversing, and acting which are educative, which bring them to a realistic understanding of life and its problems, habits which educate them as the days go by and which are likely to be continued after the school years are over. This means that the students must engage in daily reading and thinking which will keep them abreast of their times. One who gives all his time to his texts will, to be sure, acquire a body of useful facts. These tools of knowledge must not be neglected. But the texts will be discarded upon graduation. The habit of reading them cannot be a continuing habit. Education which consists of text reading will stop short on commencement day.

But the student who, along with the necessary textbook background work, is acquiring the habit of looking out upon the contemporary scene with understanding eyes is building for permanence. If, during his years in school, he gets into the way of reading the best of magazines and books which portray that scene, and of discussing what he reads, if he thus becomes accustomed to a contact with the moving current of the world's best thought—if he does that while in school, he will not only acquire a commanding education during his school days, but he will gain habits likely to be continued and habits which, if continued, will insure an unending education.

Sharp Contrasts in English Life Noted

Informal Glimpses of Parliament
at Work Are Given by Amer-
ican Observer Writer

COMPARES PRESS WITH OURS

Finds Less Unbiased Reporting in Eng-
land. Samples Public Opinion
on Outstanding Issues

The following article is by Harry G. Borwick, member of The American Observer staff, who is making a tour of Europe this summer.

In common with the thousands of other Americans who have swarmed into England for the annual summer invasion, I have been rushing about, since my arrival here some days ago, like one possessed. Eager to gather as many impressions as possible, I have tramped for hours through streets and alleys; talked with men and women of every station; dined at the slum chophouses of Whitechapel as well as at the West End, where London's fashionable gather to see and be seen; and browsed through dozens of newspapers and magazines.

As a matter of fact, what little rest I have had I owe to the House of Commons. Sitting there yesterday on a bench in the section allotted to press correspondents, I was gently but unquestionably put to sleep by Captain Crookshank, the secretary of mines, who in a tone of unctuous monotony was delivering a speech on conditions in the coal mining industry. Occasionally, as though from a great distance, I heard members on the floor of the house drawing "Mr. Chair'man, suh" or the hushed murmurs of "Heah, heah" that are employed to signify approval of a speaker's remarks; otherwise, my slumber was undisturbed.

Dull Session

More pertinent, however, is that I was not the only one asleep. Strikingly out of note with the austere atmosphere of the chamber were a number of members in undignified posture; if the evidence was to be trusted, they had fallen asleep the moment the secretary of mines began to shuffle his papers. The session impressed me as a rather dull, soulless affair. To some extent, perhaps, this may be attributed to the approaching adjournment of the Commons. Most of the members are impatient with long discussions and are anxious to get away to their summer resorts. But I have been told by journalists living here for many years that even during the winter months, at the height of parliamentary activity, debate in the Commons is rather sluggish and but sparsely attended. By far the majority of the members remain in the house only during the first hour which is generally devoted to questioning the cabinet on its policies.

This afternoon I took the occasion to be present during the question period. Conscientiously employed, the putting of questions to the cabinet commends itself as a most suitable method for keeping the cabinet constantly on the job and always prepared to justify its every move. I must confess, however, to considerable disappointment. Neville Chamberlain, the prime minister; Sir Thomas Inskip, minister for coordination of defense; Anthony Eden, the foreign minister, as well as other cabinet members, were constantly interrogated upon matters of extreme importance such as British policy in Spain, the granting of

belligerent rights to General Franco, and the measures being taken to speed up British rearmament. Upon none of these was concrete comment made. Each minister, with thoroughly disarming sophistication, answered so vaguely that it was amazing the questioners were not provoked. A few members of the Labor opposition did persist in their questions and sought to pin the ministers to definite statements. But their persistence was generally of no avail as they were shouted down by the government supporters.

Nation Arming

By the time this reaches its readers, Parliament will most likely have adjourned for the summer. In reality, it is but taking a recess and will be subject to call at any time. This has been arranged to take care of any emergency that may arise during the coming months, especially the outbreak of a war. There can be little doubt that this country is manning its every resource for defense. Over the radio one hears appeals to the public to save all scrap iron, appeals that are repeated in newspaper advertisements. The defense ministry is planning to provide even merchant ships with protective guns and a trained personnel to handle them. At Gibraltar, there has been built a most elaborate system of fortifications. While their details are kept a closely guarded secret, it is known here that they include a number of powerful gun batteries which disappear into the rock at the press of an electric button.

The pace at which these preparations are being carried on might lead a stranger to believe that all England is agog with talk of war. Americans particularly, who have been accustomed during the past year to almost daily headlines reporting the imminence of a war, expect to find the British concerned with no other question.

People Unconcerned

It was therefore somewhat of a shock to me to find how indifferent the public at large here is to the European situation. For all the interest it displays in affairs on the continent, this island might well be on a different planet. Upon my arrival at the dock in Southampton, I had bought several newspapers before boarding the train to London. As we jogged along toward London, I read the papers through quite carefully. That day, if memory serves, it was reported that Marshall Badoglio, the conqueror of Ethiopia, had landed at Gibraltar. I believe the report was not later confirmed. But in any case, it would appear to have been of such importance as to warrant prominent mention. As it was, even the popular press, which is not very restrained, placed this news item in a rather obscure corner, while devoting practically the entire front page to the suicide of a more or less prominent countess.

While on the subject of newspapers, I cannot refrain from commenting upon what seems to an American an altogether disproportionate amount of space devoted to petty gossip and inconsequential chitchat in a large part of the British press. Taking at random a 24-page edition of one of the most widely circulated London newspapers, I found that roughly 10 pages (including advertising) were given over to this sort of thing, only three pages (also including advertisements) to actual news, and the remainder to sports, financial notices, and pictures.

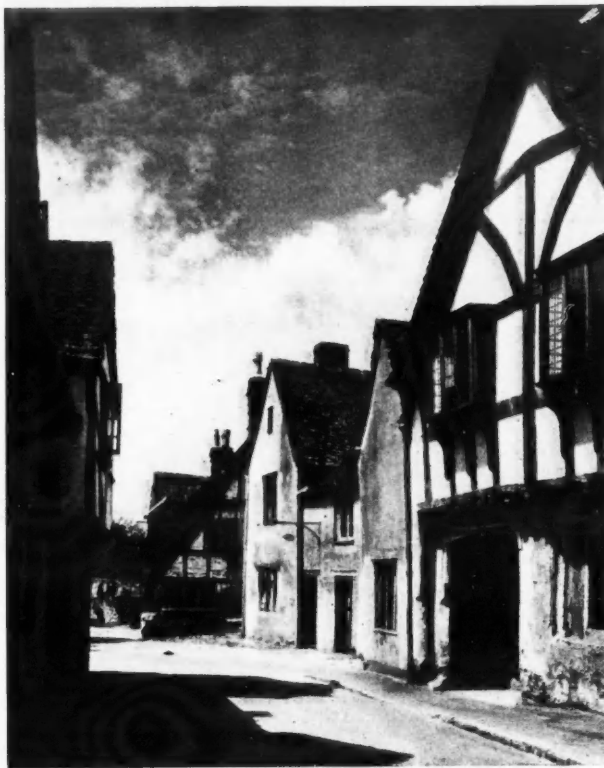
The news columns in several of the journals I found to be lacking in the tradition of unbiased reporting. It does not require a very perceptive mind to see that they are barefacedly colored by editorial prejudice. With regard to foreign countries, there occur scarcely excusable errors of fact. One editorial, commenting upon the defeat of the Supreme Court reorganization bill, and its possible consequences to the prestige of the administration, stated that President Roosevelt has but two more years to remain at the White House.

It is only fair to add that there are, at the same time, a number of excellently edited dailies, scrupulously accurate and written with a skill that is astonishing for work that has to be prepared under the pressure of time. Though their circulation is limited, they exert considerable influence throughout the country; more, in fact, I have been told, than the popular sheets combined.

Interest in Royal Family

There is one subject here that is treated by the entire press with unanimous deference: that is the royal family. People here are avid for every morsel of news concerning royalty, and by and large display genuine devotion for the king.

As for the Duke of Windsor, he has been most completely removed from the scene. There is an occasional brief mention of his activities in the press, but the government is leaving no stone unturned to keep him out of the public's notice. The lengths to which it is going to accomplish this can perhaps best be illustrated by a rather trivial incident. During visitors' day at the Houses of Parliament, picture post cards of every member of the royal family are placed on sale in one of the corridors. I had observed in passing that the photograph of the duke was conspicuously ab-



THESE ENGLISH COTTAGES ARE TYPICAL OF THE ANCIENT AND BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE, ARCHITECTURALLY AS INTERESTING AS ANY IN ENGLAND.

sent. The attendant in charge told me at first that pictures of the duke had all been sold out and that a new batch was being awaited. But further inquiry brought the information that the authorities will no longer permit his photograph to be sold there.

If the persons with whom I discussed the abdication of Edward are at all representative, then the British public has grown rather indifferent to the entire affair. At the time it took place there was a great deal of excitement because every one was anxious to know how it would end. Having heard the outcome, most Englishmen turned to their normal tasks, as if nothing had happened, and to their tea.

"High Tea"

For it would take a catastrophe of a really serious nature to interrupt the Englishman's tea. In this realm tea is not merely a beverage. It enjoys the reverence of a sacrament and I have, indeed, heard one person asking another whether they should go to "high tea," as though it were a mass. In the late afternoon, cafes and restaurants are crowded with people sipping their tea, and it is the pride of a housewife if she can justly claim the knack of brewing the beverage better than her next-door neighbor.

Space prevents my dwelling at any length upon the varied aspect of life in London. But there are certain oddments, ordinarily not appearing in the newspapers of the day, which may be of interest.

Along Victoria Embankment, a wide thoroughfare that hems the River Thames, may be seen men bending over the sidewalk with heaps of colored chalks by their side. These men, calling themselves pavement artists, make their living by drawing pictures on the walk. They come to the same spot every day, weather permitting, draw their sketches, and wait for sympathetic passers-by to drop pennies in their hats. Their art, somewhat flamboyant, nonetheless revealed distinct talent, and it seemed to me a pity that they have to erase the drawings each night. Whether what they drew was worth preserving is in the province of art critics to determine, but it seemed to me a symbol of their rather hard lot, and the futility of their daily grind, that the work they did disappeared each day with the setting sun.

It would be an interesting exercise to compare the number of soap box stands in London with that of New York. I think that in the variety of subjects protested against this metropolis puts New York to shame.

There is, of course, the usual number of speakers decrying the government, announcing the imminent arrival of the millennium, or seeking to gain converts to a radical cause. But, in addition, one finds here well attended street gatherings organized by antivivisection societies and antivaccination groups, whose speakers draw rather terrifying illustrations of the ills likely to befall one who employs these "instruments of the devil."

BLOOD TESTS

During the history of medical science, doctors have frequently been hindered in their combat against diseases by adverse public reaction. Years ago, people were skeptical of new treatments. They clung to superstitious cures, and for a long time would not believe in the communicability of diseases. Although the civilized nations have advanced now to accept modern medicine and scientific progress, they have at times continued to be backward. Such an instance is in their failure to realize the importance of applying more direct social control in fighting serious diseases.

However, it is hopeful to note the trend of public opinion in a new step which the Chicago Board of Health is taking. Doctors have found that certain diseases are definitely discovered in a person only by testing that person's blood. In Chicago now, the health authorities are conducting a poll of public opinion. The results so far show that 90 per cent of those who have voted are willing to submit themselves to free blood tests to be conducted under the supervision of the city. If the entire population favors the blood tests by a large majority, the plan will be adopted. Persons having diseases discoverable by blood tests will learn of their infection.



TOWER BRIDGE AND THE PORT OF LONDON

London, in addition to being the great capital of the British Empire, is also its greatest port.

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AROUND THE WORLD

China: While the diplomats of both China and Japan are contending that there is still a chance for a peaceful settlement of the Japanese invasion of North China, the military forces of both countries are preparing for war. The Japanese ambassador to China has gone to China to confer with General Chiang Kai-shek. Chiang is known to be open to a settlement, although he continues to mobilize his troops and move them toward the northern section. He has conferred with the generals and governors of outlying provinces recently, presumably engaging their support in case the conflict with Japan becomes general. The Chinese foreign minister said recently, "It is still not too late to avert an armed conflict, if Japan will make a great effort to that end."

Japan has complete control in the northern part of the Hopei province, but has not pushed her troops much farther. Japan's army now in China is not large enough to extend its operations over much territory. The air force has bombed Chinese troops in several sections of North China, however. Another indication that Japan may be contemplating a spread of the warfare is the removal of all Japanese citizens from areas far south of the Hopei province. Japan has warned China that the latter's troops must be withdrawn as far south as the Yellow River, 300 miles from Peiping, before a settlement can be made.

It looks as though both countries may be bluffing a bit, and that both may recede somewhat from their present stand to forestall a war. Economic conditions in Japan may account for some of the hesitancy which is being shown in extending the drive. Japan's industries have not been producing as rapidly as was expected; foreign trade has fallen off and will be seriously crippled if the merchant marine is used to transport troops; the \$150 millions appropriation which has been made for war preparations has taxed the national budget severely.

Spain: The Spanish loyalists are having difficulties within their own ranks which are hindering their military activities. Former Premier Largo Caballero, head of the loyalists until last May, is arousing the Anarchists and the extreme radicals against the more moderate Premier Juan Negrin. Caballero was not particularly



EAST IS EAST AND WEST IS WEST

HERBLOCK IN PONCA CITY (OKLA.) NEWS

successful as premier. He seemed to be more interested in conducting far-reaching social reforms in Spain than in winning the war. Negrin has done much more with the army; it is much more efficient now than it was when Caballero was in charge. Caballero has considerable backing among the Anarchists and the labor unions, however. His plea is that it would do no good to win the war if the conservative group headed by Negrin is to remain in charge of the government. Whether or not his plan to regain control of the government is successful, it is certain that he will make the work of the loyalist leaders more difficult, thus aiding the insurgents who are reported to be preparing for another large-scale attack along the Madrid front.

Germany: The church won two skirmishes last week in the Nazi fight to control religion in Germany. The first victory was recorded when a German court found Dr. Friederich Dibelius not guilty of misrepresenting Franz Kerrl, church minister of Germany. Dr. Dibelius wrote a letter to Chancellor Hitler protesting certain remarks which Kerrl had made concerning religious theory. The letter received wide publicity, and Kerrl charged that Dr. Dibelius had misrepresented him. The trial "did honor to German justice," according to a New York Times correspondent, and ended in defeat for the Nazi officials, which is very unusual.

A few days later, 115 religious enthusiasts marched through the streets of Dahlem protesting against the attempts of the government to control the church. Although they were arrested by the police, they were later set free. The Nazi government does not permit open protests against its decrees, and this was thought to be the first public demonstration since Hitler came into power.

Another crucial point in the struggle between the Nazis and the church is scheduled for the next few days. The trial of Reverend Martin Niemöller, recently arrested for protesting against the Nazi tactics, will soon take place. He is the leader of the church group, and his fate will have an important bearing on the future of the church in Germany. If he is freed, he will undoubtedly continue his fight against governmental control of the church, and if he is imprisoned, he will be regarded as a martyr by the religious groups. Dr. Dibelius is an associate of Reverend Niemöller, and has carried on his work while the latter

has been in prison. Dr. Niemöller has become so prominent that the Nazis are said to be reluctant to bring him to trial lest further popular demonstrations excite public opinion against it.

Russia: The United States and Russia entered into a trade agreement recently by which Russia will purchase at least \$40 millions of goods during the next 12 months. In return, the United States will accord Russia the "most-favored-nation" tariff treatment, by which Russia will be permitted to ship certain goods into the United States without paying the full tariff on them. Although the State Department says that it is not a reciprocal trade agreement such as the United States has with a number of nations, it will have practically the same effect. The agreement renews and extends the pacts under which the two countries have been cooperating for the last two years, and which expired in July.

The recent agreement is another step on the part of the administration to induce Russians to buy in the United States. In 1930, the United States sold \$114 millions of goods to Russia, but in 1933 that figure dropped to \$9 millions, because European nations were bidding for Russian trade. The United States recognized the Soviet government in 1933, which stimulated buying here to a certain extent, but the Soviets purchased only \$37 millions of goods from the United States last year.

There is opposition to the agreement in this country because it will permit Russia to ship coal in without paying the \$2-a-ton duty imposed by the Revenue Act of 1932. Mining companies and labor organizations say that the agreement will be harmful to the American mining industry. Russia, however, has promised to ship not more than 400,000 tons of coal to the United States, which is less coal than was shipped in last year.

Iceland: The union between Iceland and Denmark, which dates from 1918, may be severed in 1943 if Iceland's present desire to be entirely independent continues to grow. The Iceland legislature, the Althing, recently voted unanimously in favor of taking affairs of state into its own hands. The people of Iceland will vote some time between 1943 whether or not to continue the present union with Denmark.

There seems to be no antagonism between Iceland and Denmark; in fact, the union between the two countries has been mutually beneficial. Denmark has no direct control over Iceland, but since the trade conditions of the two countries are different, the authorities of Iceland believe that their country would profit by conducting its own diplomatic relations separately.

Iceland has developed a number of cooperatives lately, patterning them after Sweden's. Foreign trade has been on the increase, with Germany, South America, and Great Britain as the most important

markets. America's principal interest in Iceland has been as a way-station for trans-Atlantic airlines.

United States: Some weeks ago, Secretary of State Cordell Hull issued a declaration of policy setting forth the American position regarding international problems. His statement was delivered officially by diplomatic representatives of the United States to governments all over the world. Secretary Hull declared that wars anywhere in the world would have an impact upon the fate of all countries. He therefore concluded that armaments must



PEIPING SCENE

WIDE WORLD

be reduced, commercial barriers removed, obligations fulfilled, and treaties rigidly adhered to.

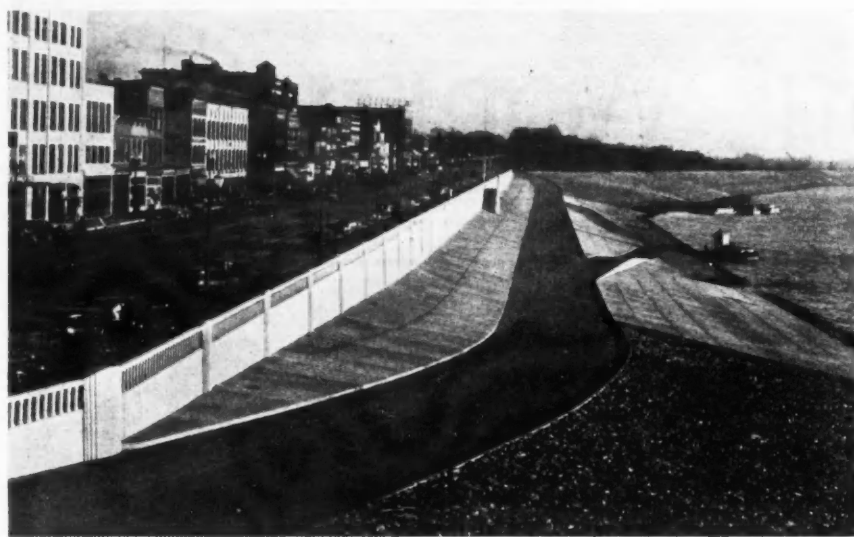
Recently, 37 nations replied to his plea for peace. Great Britain, France, and Russia were among the great powers which expressed agreement with his statement. Latin-American countries were especially friendly in their replies. But Hungary and Bulgaria, while agreeing with Secretary Hull's principles, took occasion in their replies to condemn the results of the World War peace treaties. South Africa also criticized the perpetuation of wrongs "by agreement at the point of the bayonet."

With these few exceptions, the responses of the 37 countries were almost entirely favorable. Even Hungary, Bulgaria, and South Africa found grounds for general approval of Secretary Hull's statement. However, the absence of replies from several nations was conspicuous. Notable among these nations were China, Japan, Spain, Germany, and Italy. It is said that Secretary Hull's statement was construed to apply to the Chinese and the Spanish war situations, even though he did not specifically refer to these conflicts. Therefore, it was ignored by nations involved either directly or indirectly in those areas.



WIDE WORLD

EGYPT'S BOY KING RETURNS TO HIS HOMELAND
His Majesty King Farouk, Egypt's 17-year-old king (center figure), returns to his native country after a five-month tour of Europe. Investiture ceremonies took place for the young monarch at Cairo, July 29.



DRESSING UP THE "BACKYARD"

PWA PHOTO

Evansville, Indiana, is one of many cities which, with the help of PWA funds, have made their "backyards" more attractive. Evansville has transformed its narrow Water Street, its shabby landing pier, and its flood ravaged park front, along the Ohio waterfront, with the above improvements and protections.

Garner Cracks the Whip

Vice-President Garner lost no time in pushing the bill to reform the lower courts, all that remains of President Roosevelt's plan to change the Supreme Court and federal judiciary, through the Senate. No vote was ever taken. Mr. Garner simply asked if there were any objections to the bill, and hearing none because he didn't give anyone time to make any, announced that the bill had been passed by unanimous consent, while senators gaped and pounded their desks in a vain attempt to be heard.

Although the Senate was considerably surprised at the vice-president's tactics, there was little resentment against them. The bill as it stands is relatively unimportant; its purpose is to speed up action in the lower courts. The attorney-general is allowed to intervene in the lower courts to bring cases directly to the Supreme Court. At present each case must go through several lower courts. The new bill also permits the reassignment of federal district judges to courts which are especially busy, thus clearing the dockets in those districts. Lower courts are not allowed to grant injunctions, except special three-judge courts including one member of the Federal Court of Appeals.

Because they feared that the bill might be



HARRIS AND EWING

IN SPOTLIGHT ON REORGANIZATION

Luther Gulick (right), member of the President's government reorganization advisory committee, is informally questioned by Senator Harry F. Byrd, who opposes the administration on its reorganization program.

changed on the floor of the House to revive the Supreme Court issue, the senators in charge of it adopted a bill which the House

NOTICE

The American Observer is published throughout the calendar year with the exception of two weeks in December and the last two weeks in August. The next issue of the paper will be dated September 6.

had already passed, and substituted their own provisions in place of the House bill. Consequently the bill will go to a joint conference committee of the two houses, instead of going directly to the House for consideration. It will probably be recommended back to both the House and the Senate for enactment much as it is now.

Wages and Hours

The wage-and-hour bill which the House of Representatives has been considering during the last few days is a much different bill from the one passed recently by the Senate, although it bears the same number. After the House Labor Committee had finished amending the Senate's bill, it contained 59 changes. Most of them were minor, but some were quite important. For instance, the bill was amended to include the child labor provision which was omitted by the Senate. It also safeguarded collective bargaining, in answer to protests to the Senate bill by labor unions. Another provision barred imports unless the importer has the same standards of labor which prevail in the United States.

The bill still provides for a Labor Standards Board to fix minimum wages and maximum hours. The House committee agreed with the Senate bill on establishing the minimum wage as not more than 40 cents, and the maximum hours at not more than 40. Formerly some members of the House had hoped to fix the limits at 70 cents and 35 hours.

There is still disagreement to the bill on the part of southern congressmen, but it is expected that the supporters of the measure will have enough strength to pass it. Then the bill will be referred to a joint committee of the two houses, which will attempt to agree on a compromise acceptable to both groups.

The Housing Bill

After a prolonged debate over amendments, the Senate finally passed the Wagner-Steagall Housing Bill, but loaded it with restrictions which brought violent protests from its author, Senator Wagner. There was very little opposition to the bill itself, and the measure would have gone through the upper house in a day of two if the amendments had not been offered.

The bill itself provides \$700,000,000 to be loaned for the building of low-rent homes. It also provides for annual contributions to be made to the owners of the buildings who offer them at low rents to underprivileged families. Within the next three years, it is expected that the project will provide 350,000 low-rent houses.

One amendment to which Senator Wagner was especially opposed limits the amount to be lent to any state to 20 per cent of the total. Senators from the farming districts feared that the funds would go to the large cities, particularly New York, if such a restriction was not placed in the bill. Another amendment provided that no house should cost more than \$4,000. It was claimed that if the houses cost more than that, the government would be taxing the American citizens to build better homes for the poor than the average American wage-

earner had. Senator Wagner stated that such a provision would seriously cripple building in the large cities, where the high cost of building material and labor would make it impossible to construct good houses at that figure. Another amendment put the Federal Housing Authority, which will direct the work, under the Department of Interior rather than making it a separate agency. Senator Wagner was opposed to this move because he said that the past record of the Department of Interior has shown that it is not capable of handling a housing program efficiently.

The bill may be changed in the House of Representatives to strike out the amendments which have been imposed. If so, it will go to a joint conference between members of both houses where the differences will be ironed out. The bill is expected to pass within the next few days.

Counting Unemployed

The United States will know by next April just how many people in the country are unemployed, if the House concurs with the Senate in a resolution providing for a census. Ac-



THE MELON PATCH BEARS AGAIN

KIRBY IN WASHINGTON NEWS

cording to the Senate resolution, five million dollars will be spent on the census. It will cover all the unemployed and also those employed only part time. According to Harry L. Hopkins, WPA Administrator, the census is needed to give the government a complete picture of the unemployment situation in the United States. At the present time, there is no adequate information on which the legislators can base their attempts to aid the unemployed.

President Roosevelt questioned the worth of such a census last spring, but he has not opposed the present census. Since Mr. Hopkins has come out in favor of the census, the President is probably favorable also. The unemployed census has been proposed ever since the present administration took office, and although it has been promised at various times, it has never been taken. Public opinion in favor of such a census seems to be strong.

Crop Control Again

A government prediction of the largest cotton crop in six years, totaling more than 15 million bales, sent prices dropping sharply on the cotton market and spurred southern congressmen to action. Senators and representatives from the southern states requested that the government make loans to the cotton farmers so the price of cotton can be maintained. President Roosevelt, however, has said that he does not favor such loans unless some plan to control crops accompanies them, thus preventing future surpluses.

The President does not believe that commodity loans, such as the southern states are asking, will do any permanent good unless a crop-control system is enacted. Commodity loans were never necessary when the United States' surplus could be sold in Europe, but

when the foreign market failed, the price of farm products dropped. The Farm Board was created in 1929 to stabilize prices; when President Roosevelt took office, the Farm Relief Bill was enacted with the same objective. Under this plan, loans were made to those farmers who agreed to crop control. Along with the AAA it succeeded in cutting down production so well that the United States had to import some of its farm produce, and prices rose. The AAA was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1936. Although the present Soil Conservation Act provides for some control, it is not so inclusive as the AAA, and many farmers have gone back to unlimited production. The increase in the number of acres planted, aided by excellent weather conditions, resulted in the largest farm crop in many years. Because of crop failures in other countries, the wheat price in the United States has stayed up, and corn has not dropped, largely because of the high price of pork. Cot-



FROM A CARTOON BY SEIBEL IN

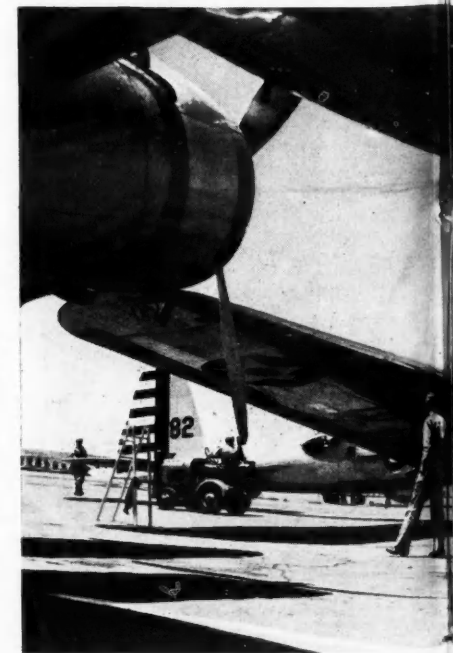
ton is the only major crop threatened with immediate and drastic reduction in price.

The crop-control plan is generally opposed in Congress. The President has consistently favored it, but there was little likelihood that crop control would even receive consideration until he made it contingent upon the commodity loans to farmers. The pressure may be sufficiently strong to force the farming states to agree to crop control in order to get the loans, if not during this Congress, then early in the next session.

New Head for Hull House

Probably the most famous settlement house in the United States is Hull House in Chicago. Founded by Jane Addams in 1889 to help tenement dwellers, it grew and enlarged its activities under her direction until she died two years ago. The directors have finally selected another woman to take charge of Hull House, Miss Charlotte Carr.

Miss Carr is at present director of the Emergency Relief Bureau in New York State.



THE ARMY'S "FLYING FORTRESS"
An unusual view of the Boeing four-motored "Flying Fortress" maneuvers of the air force at March Field, California. The Fortress

The United States

Doing, Saying, and Thinking

She has a wide experience in social work. As a graduate of Vassar in 1915, she went into an orphan asylum in Columbus, Ohio, as a matron. After a short time there, she moved to New York, first with a charity organization and then with the Probation and Protection Association. After the war, Miss Carr took a position as employment manager in a lithographic house and later in a textile mill, where she studied the problems of the workers at first hand. Under Frances Perkins, now federal secretary of labor, Miss Carr worked in the Bureau of Women in Industry. Her work there attracted the attention of Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania, and she was named state secretary of labor. She held that position until 1935, when Governor Lehman selected her to direct the home relief in New York City.

Miss Carr is very sympathetic with labor, and thoroughly in favor of a relief system. She has said, "Until the present social order

terms. The strike was called because four union men were discharged, and a settlement was reached when the company agreed to give the men a hearing and consider rehiring them.

The New York Chamber of Commerce announced last week that there had been more strikes during the first six months of 1937 than during a like period of any other year. According to their figures, there were 2,512 strikes from January to June, inclusive, while there were only 1,077 strikes during the same period of 1936 and 2,048 during the first six months of 1917, the previous high mark. The chamber listed as reasons for the large number of strikes the recovery from depression, the activities of the C. I. O., and the legislation passed by Congress concerning labor activities, such as the National Labor Relations Act.

Tax Loopholes

While Congress is considering legislation to plug the loopholes in the federal income-tax law, officials of the State and Treasury Departments are advising international cooperation as a possible method of preventing evasion and tax avoidance. Already, these de-



RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

provides jobs for those it is now barring from industry, it will be compelled to support the relief system to which it has consigned millions of able-bodied American jobless."

Textile Strike

The C. I. O. moved into the textile field last week in an effort to organize the 58,000 workers of the silk and rayon mills of New England, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. Thirty thousand workers went on strike at the first call of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee, headed by Sidney Hillman. According to reports, the strike was well disciplined and without violence. The employers have agreed to bargain with the strikers provided the latter show that they control a large per cent of the workers, and it is expected that the strike will be settled in short order with a majority of the companies signing contracts with the union.

A strike in the Chrysler-Plymouth plant at Detroit was terminated last week, just a few days after it was called, when the company and the United Automobile Workers came to



THEY ALL COME TO UNCLE
FRITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

partments have been discussing with several foreign countries a proposal to execute treaties for the international exchange of tax information. The purpose of this plan would be to enable foreign countries to keep informed about the business activities of their citizens who are establishing corporations away from home to avoid paying taxes in their own nations. Such an instance is the practice of American citizens who organize foreign corporations in the Bahamas, thus escaping the United States tax laws.

New England Water Power

The problem of governmental control of water power, which has been bitterly fought lately between the private utilities and the present administration, is threatening a flood control plan in New England. This time the disagreement is between four states, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and the federal government. The states have drawn up compacts which provide for flood-control projects in the valleys of the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers. The projects will cost \$20,000,000, with the federal government contributing three-fourths of the money and the states dividing the other one-fourth. Nothing now remains but for the federal government to approve the state compacts.

President Roosevelt has lately seemed to oppose the compacts, because of one clause which gives the states the control over the power rights which may develop from the eight dams to be built. The President has always advocated that the government should retain control of all power development resulting from flood control dams. Because the rivers are navigable, the Federal Power Commission protests that this clause violates the Flood Control Act of 1936.



CAMP I (19,200 FEET)
High up in the Himalayas. From a photograph in "The Ascent of Nanda Devi," by H. W. Tilman.

NEW BOOKS

Unusual Memoirs

Oliver St. John Gogarty is one of those rare characters who, in a world maliciously intent upon making all mankind kin, retain a welcome, if admittedly perverse, individuality. In Dublin, where he makes his home, he is known as a prominent physician and former member of the Irish Free State senate (which President De Valera abolished a year ago). Less widely, in more select circles, he is known as a wit and as a man of letters.

Obviously caring little for how the world may wag at him, Mr. Gogarty has until now denied publishers who came to him on their knees for his memoirs. What impelled him to yield is not clear. But then, there is no need for a reason. His volume, "As I Was Walking down Sackville Street" (New York: Reynal & Hitchcock, \$3.50), is one of the delights of the publishing season. It is a book not to be classified easily. It does not fit the mold of the usual book of memoirs. Mr. Gogarty deals with the Irish literary scene and with figures in politics. But he also deals with quaint, dusty characters whom others have scorned to touch; with historical movements; with hunting trips; to all of which he brings witty and mellow reflection.

American Humor

Americans of the nineteenth century did not have a Will Rogers. They could not listen to radio broadcasts by Bob Burns, Ben Bernie, or Jack Benny. Nor did they have movies featuring George Burns and Gracie Allen, Irving S. Cobb, and the Marx brothers. But they laughed, and laughed hard, over the writings of a group of men whose names are now legendary in the annals of American humor—Artemus Ward, Petroleum V. Nasby, Josh Billings, Bill Nye, Mr. Dooley, and Mark Twain.

Unconsciously, any humor, when it becomes widely accepted, mirrors a reflection of the times during which it originated. The story of this nineteenth-century humor is therefore valuable today in giving us an understanding of our forbears and the country which they were developing. Such a story is "Native American Humor" (New York: American Book Company, \$3). In it Professor Walter Blair undertakes to show the course and the characteristics of American humor as it expressed itself between 1800 and 1900. Representative selections from the nineteenth-century writings fill nearly two-thirds of the book. Altogether, it is a contribution toward a better understanding of America's background and traditions.

Scaling the Himalayas

Mountain climbing is a tedious, yet thrilling and dangerous, task. The climbers must spend months in preparation before they finally ascend an especially difficult peak. They must

study the known facts about the mountain, and collect data and surveys concerning weather conditions. They take every precaution in planning their camping equipment. Teamwork is an essential characteristic among the group which will tackle the ascent, and all of the climbers must be real athletes, able to withstand the perils and rigors of the upward journey.

The story of such climbers and of their activities is told in "The Ascent of Nanda Devi" (New York: The Macmillan Company, \$3.50). The author is H. W. Tilman, one of two men who were the first ever to reach the summit of Nanda Devi, a peak in the Himalayan range. Although the altitude they reached was 24,645 feet above sea level, higher ascents have been made. One climber, N. E. Odell, has ascended three times to an altitude of 27,000 feet on Everest. However, the importance of the Nanda Devi climb is that this mountain was scaled to the very peak; it was the highest mountain ever conquered completely. Mr. Tilman's book is a modest account of his expedition to Nanda Devi's peak.

Central Europe

Since the close of the World War, the central European nations have constituted one of the danger spots of Europe. How stability



HARRIS AND EWING

TAMMANY'S NEW CHIEF

Christopher D. Sullivan, who has been elected head of New York City's famous Democratic machine. Tammany is launching its candidate, Senator Royal S. Copeland, in the coming Democratic primary elections to select the opponent to Mayor La Guardia.

can be established in those nations which were largely carved from the old Austro-Hungarian monarchy has baffled statesmen and students of international relations alike. The various aspects of this thorny problem are examined, in thorough and scholarly fashion, by Dr. Gerhard Schacher in his "Central Europe and the Western World" (New York: Henry Holt and Company, \$2.75).

Although it is filled with a mass of statistics and details on economic and political aspects of the problem, the book is a valuable guide to a better understanding of the whole central European question and its relation to the future peace of Europe.



WIDE WORLD
"FLYING FORTRESS"
Fortress is it was pulled into line before taking part in recent maneuvers. The rotors and propellers above are those of another "Flying Fortress."

Protecting the American Consumer

(Concluded from page 1)

the U. S. Food and Drug Administration.

There is little question that some extension of the food and drug legislation is needed. The world has greatly changed since 1906, and the business of supplying the United States with food and drugs has changed with it. Those who drew up the bill had no way of knowing what problems would arise in the years to come, so there are many phases of the food and drug business which are not touched by the original bill. Even when it was drawn up, says W. G. Campbell, chief of the Administration, it was not a good bill, but it was the best that could be drawn in face of the opposition to any regulation. Manufacturers were active then as they are now.

Public Opinion Aroused

Public opinion in favor of more stringent food and drug legislation has been aroused lately by several books which profess to tell the truth about many products. Thousands of people have read "One Hundred Million Guinea Pigs" and a shorter book, "Counterfeiting," by the same author. Ruth deForest Lamb, assistant to the chief of the Administration, has written "America's Chamber of Horrors," based on the findings of the Food and Drug Administration. These books take up many nationally advertised products sold in the United States today, show that they are dangerous or harmful, and that they do not merit the claims made for them. The Consumer's Research publishes a monthly report for its subscribers, in which it evaluates different brands of various products, and this service is widely used. All these publications have the same purpose, to give the consumer an accurate estimate of the goods which he is buying, and eventually to bring about legislation to prevent the consumer from being cheated.

Those who are working for a new food and drug bill have many provisions which they wish to include. The control of advertising is perhaps the most important; at least, it has received more publicity. The present Food and Drug Act prohibits manufacturers from misrepresenting their products on the labels of their goods, but it has

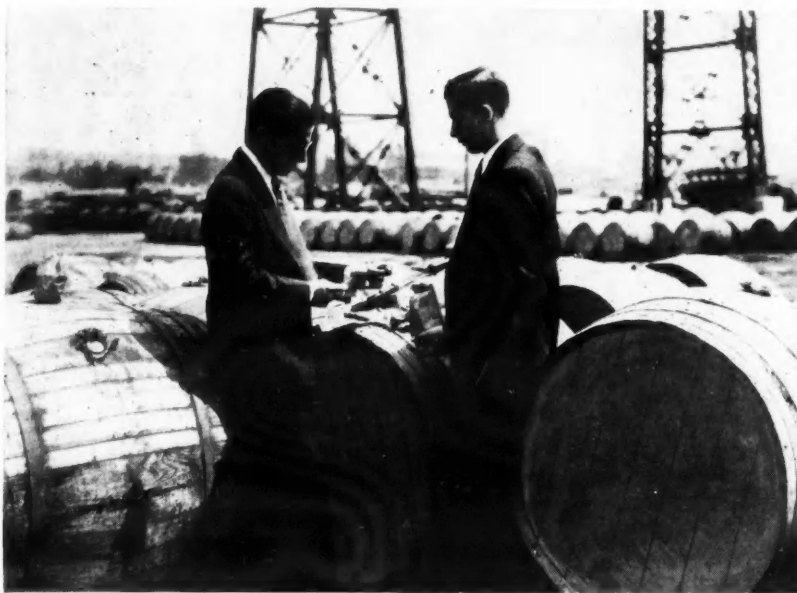


INSPECTING CHICKENS

(Photographs on this page are by courtesy of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration.)

no control over advertising. Thus the Administration may force a company to stop using certain claims on the packages themselves, but it cannot prevent the company from making those same claims in newspaper, magazine, and radio advertising. The American consumers are used to accepting advertising claims with at least a teaspoon of salt, and the Food and Drug Administration is not opposed to the more harmless types of exaggerated advertising, but it does desire to control the advertising of products which are dangerous and harmful or which are entirely false.

Cosmetics are another sore spot with the Administration. When the original bill was written, very few cosmetics were used. A



EXAMINING SPANISH OLIVES

Experts of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration seek, within the limits of the existing law, to protect the American consumer.

little powder was the only "make-up" which convention allowed, but now rouge, lipstick, eye shadow, eyebrow pencil, face cream, and vanishing cream are a part of nearly every woman's make-up kit. This business has grown so rapidly that it now amounts to more than two hundred million dollars a year, and yet there is practically no control over it. There are many examples on record of cosmetics causing permanent injury; an eyelash preparation has caused total blindness. The Food and Drug Administration wants to prohibit such harmful cosmetics, and make the manufacturer tell the consumer just what she is buying.

The old law provides that any food can be sold if it is sold under a name of its own. This "distinctive name" clause makes it possible for many products to escape all regulation by the Administration. For instance, salad dressing, if it is so called, is subject to inspection and control by the Administration, but if the manufacturer gives his preparation a distinctive name such as "Miracle Spread," there is no way the Administration can control it to protect the consumer.

Present Penalties Light

The penalties provided under the present Food and Drug Act are so light that sometimes they are almost ridiculous. For instance, a prominent packing company has been fined as little as \$10 for shipping decomposed poultry, and there have been fines as low as one cent. Obviously, if the Food and Drug Administration is to be effective, the manufacturers must be subject to more severe punishment for infringement of the regulations which it imposes.

There are many drugs sold which are dangerous to the user, even if they are used according to the directions. Yet the Food and

Drug Administration cannot penalize the manufacturer for selling such drugs unless it can prove that the manufacturer knew the drug was harmful. This is practically impossible, of course. Proposed legislation would force the manufacturers to conform to certain standards set up by the government, thus assuring the consumer that they would not be dangerous.

The McNary-Mapes Amendment to the Food and Drug Act provided a standard of quality for canned goods, and any goods below that quality must be labeled substandard. The food and drug advocates would like to have a law which would force the manufacturers to label all canned goods according to standards set up by the Ad-

ministration. They would also like to extend the regulation to all food, not just canned goods, so the consumer would know just what quality of goods he was buying.

A new Food and Drug Act, it is claimed, should require habit-forming drugs to bear warning labels. It should require that claims of effect of drugs be supported by scientific facts, and it should set up the United States Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia as the legal standard for such drugs.

Many consumers are fooled because of the packages in which food and drugs are sold. They may purchase a large box of spice and never know that the box is only half filled. False bottoms in boxes, and bottles which are almost solid glass are frequently used to trick the consumer. A new Food and Drug Act should require truthfulness on the part of the manufacturer and retailer. These are but a few of the many regulations for which the food and drug enthusiasts are working.

What groups are opposed to food and drug legislation? In the first place, there are certain manufacturers themselves. Control over their products would mean a great reduction of profit for them. They would have to use better methods, more expensive raw products, and they would have to tell the truth in advertising. Obviously, they are fighting any food and drug legislation which would really control their activities. William Allen White recently wrote in a discussion of the Copeland Bill, "A few drug, cosmetic, and food racketeers have managed not only to prevent its enactment but to strip it of first one, then another, of the many fine provisions it contained for safeguarding the health and economic welfare of America's millions."

Then there are the newspapers, the magazines, and the radio advertising agencies. They fear that if the Food and Drug Administration had control over advertising, many of their best customers would be forced to abandon their advertising entirely. The manufacturers, of course, have taken pains to let the advertisers know that the proposed legislation would cut down the amount of advertising which they would do. These groups, together, provide strong opposition to adequate food and drug laws.

Nearly every session of Congress has food and drug legislation introduced into both houses, but the determined opposition has prevented any bill from being passed. In 1934 a strong Food and Drug Act was introduced in the Senate. After several amendments which seriously weakened the bill, it went to the House of Representatives, where it was changed radically and weakened still more. There are factions in Congress which do not wish to put the control in the hands of the Food and Drug Administration. Instead, they would give

the Federal Trade Commission power to administer the new act. Those who favor allowing the Food and Drug Administration to continue the work claim that it will be more severe than the Federal Trade Commission, and for that reason the manufacturers and advertisers are trying to put the power in the hands of the latter. The magazine, *Business Week*, said in discussing the bill, "It is candidly admitted by food, drug, and cosmetic advertisers that regulation by the Trade Commission would be less onerous than regulation by the Food and Drug Administration."

At This Session

Legislation in the present session has followed much the same path. A bill was introduced by Senator Copeland of New York, early in the session, embodying many of the points asked for by the Food and Drug Administration and its backers. The Senate amended the bill so radically that President Roosevelt himself contended the new bill was weaker than the original of 1906. *The Nation* had this to say about the Copeland bill: "In this connection it is significant that even various business groups anxious to preserve the dwindling confidence of their customers, feel that the Copeland bill as it now stands is inadequate. It definitely weakens the seizure provisions of the 1906 law; it provides no civil or criminal penalties for false advertising; and it is full of dangerous loopholes. To hand over control of advertising to the Federal Trade Commission would be to yield the last hope of protection for the consumer."

The bill went to the House Committee on Commerce last spring, and there it has been buried. The chairman of the committee, Representative Lea, favors giving the Federal Trade Commission power to regulate the advertising and to take over many of the new regulatory powers rather than give them to the Food and Drug Administration, and it is expected that the bill will contain such provisions if it is ever reported out of the committee. Even this did not appear likely until Congressman Rees of Kansas revived the issue in a recent session of the House. It is highly improbable that any legislation will be passed, for even if the House committee did agree on a bill, it would differ from the Senate bill so radically that a conference committee between the two houses would find it almost impossible to agree on any of the provisions.



TESTING FOR LEAD IN FOOD

The Voteless District of Columbia

CONGRESS recently decided that the residents of Washington, D. C., must contribute the sum of \$9,000,000 toward the support of their local government during the next fiscal year. This represents an increase in the amount which the people of the District have been required to add to the sums appropriated by Congress for the upkeep of the area in which the seat of the federal government is located.

Congress legislated new taxes to provide the extra funds needed. It debated various methods of taxation and finally selected several different ones. But the people of the District of Columbia had no voice whatever in determining the question of whether and how much they should be taxed, except for the privilege of registering their sentiments at committee meetings. They are not represented in Congress and have no control over their own local government.

This situation has led some of the people in Washington to recall the cry of 1776: "Taxation without representation is tyranny." They believe that they are being treated unfairly. They do not object to paying their just share of the government's expenses, but they complain against paying the taxes when they have no voice in the legislature.

How District Is Governed

To those who are accustomed to voting for representatives to Congress, such a condition must seem strange. Questions arise: How is the District of Columbia governed? Is the District attempting to obtain representation in Congress? What difficulties are its efforts meeting?

The territory which comprises the District of Columbia was given to the United States government by Maryland. The site for the city of Washington was selected in this area of 69 square miles. By an act of Congress, the entire District is treated as a municipal corporation in matters of local government. This means that the District has certain problems which are local in nature, such as police and fire protection, traffic control, building regulations, health protection, and city planning. As a municipal corporation, or city, the District must meet these problems.

Therefore, an act of Congress was passed, putting this local government in the hands of three commissioners. Two of the commissioners are civilians, appointed by the President with the approval of the Senate. The third commissioner is an army engineer, also selected by the President. These men administer the problems of local government in the District. They have been empowered by Congress to make building regulations, and to pass and enforce other laws for the protection of the residents in the District.

Besides making these local ordinances, the commissioners have two other important functions. Each year they prepare estimates of the expenditures which will be required to run the local government of the District. These estimates are given to Congress, where the appropriations are made. In this way, Congress is aided in determining the needs of the District. Another function of the commissioners is to advise Congress on all legislation which will affect the District. The commissioners themselves have no power to pass such legislation, but they can consult with committees in Congress on the advisability of making the laws concerning the District.

Thus for a number of weeks, the commissioners were advising Congress as it attempted to determine how much money the District needs to run its local government during the coming year. For the past several years, the residents of the District have been paying from 78 per cent to 82 per cent of these expenses, while the federal government has been paying from 22 per cent to 18 per cent of the total.

However, the residents of Washington can only wait to find out what Congress decides. They have no voice in the selection of the three commissioners. They do not vote for the President of the United

States, and they are not represented in Congress by representatives or senators. For a number of years, they have been attempting to obtain the right to vote for representatives to the national legislature.

Why Vote Is Wanted

For what reasons do they believe that they are entitled to have a vote for representation in Congress? They point out that there are 486,869 persons living in Washington, D. C., according to the 1930 census. Of this number 341,465 are of voting age. Because some of these people reside in the District only temporarily, they cast their ballots in their home states. But it is estimated that from 250,000 to 300,000 of the residents cannot vote elsewhere.



THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S BUILDINGS TAKE UP A LARGE PART OF THE LAND AREA IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

How much money does the District pay in taxes? In the fiscal year of 1935-36, the residents paid \$17,322,929 in taxes for the support of the federal government. This exceeded in amount the national taxes paid by each of 25 states. It was also more than the combined amount of national taxes paid by 9 states. Moreover, the District pays for a large share of the expenses of its local government. It has already been pointed out that the federal government contributes from 18 per cent to 22 per cent of the revenue necessary to run the District. The residents pay the balance of from 78 per cent to 82 per cent.

Amendment Asked

These are only a few of the facts which the supporters of the fight for representation and the right to vote point to. They say that the members of Congress are here to represent their states and are too busy to devote ample time to the problems of the District. These residents are asking for an amendment to the Constitution. This proposed amendment would give Congress the power to extend the vote to the citizens of the District. It would give them the right to vote for men in the Senate and the House, and for the President of the United States.

The residents are also asking for an act

of Congress which would give them the right to select the officers of local government in the District. They believe that Congress should still retain a large control over the District, because it is the seat of the federal government. But they think that the residents might vote for their local officials without diminishing the control of Congress.

Three Propositions

There are then these three propositions which the residents are supporting:

1. The right to vote for the President and the Vice President.
2. The right to have and to vote for representatives in the House and in the Senate.

cision in governing the District of Columbia.

So far, Congress has refused to pass the resolution which would submit a constitutional amendment to the states. Until it passes such a resolution, the states themselves will have no opportunity to decide whether the residents of the nation's capital should vote for the President of the United States and for representatives to Congress.

TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS

A number of weeks ago, England and the United States became the first nations to establish experimental transatlantic flights by plying airships. Several round-trip crossings over a north Atlantic route have already been made by the planes of both countries. Germany has now entered in the series of aviation experiments. A few days ago, her giant seaplane, the *Nordmeer*, took off on the first of eight flights between New York and Frankfurt-Am-Main. The French company, Air France, is expected to send a plane on survey crossings in a short time.

The simultaneous occurrence of these transatlantic survey flights by the four countries has caused some observers to call the crossings "an international race to establish air service between Europe and the United States." From all indications, it is a race in which the contestants are giving each other the fullest cooperation. The planes of each country are gathering data concerning flying conditions, meteorological and weather reports, and radio communications. It is said that in all cases they expect to share their findings with their foreign competitors.

SMILES

Now a physician comes to the bat with the statement that excessive laughter will cause serious heart trouble. Maybe so, but, alas! it never kills those who laugh at their own jokes.
—Washington Post

The deep sea diver was hard at work on the ocean bottom.

Suddenly an urgent voice came over his telephone, which connected him with the boat above.

"Come up quickly," the voice said, "the captain tells me the boat is sinking."
—Montreal Herald

Our idea of a labor-saving expert is one who always waits to make up a four before passing through a revolving door.
—PUNCH

"What have Hitler and Mussolini up their sleeves?" asks a writer in a daily newspaper. Whichever way one looks at the question, the answer still seems to be arms.
—PUNCH

"Why," asked the prospector, "did you come out into the middle of this dried up, barren territory to build a home? There isn't a tree within a hundred miles of you."

"What else could I do? The wife was set on learning to drive the car!"
—Providence Journal

"Yes, sir, these are the ruins of a building that was in existence 2,500 years ago," declared the guide.

"What rubbish!" one member of the tourist party answered. "Why, it's only 1937 now."
—Edinburgh Dispatch

A chemistry student of Iowa College has discovered a gas which he claims will destroy gas masks. No doubt by the time this paragraph appears in print someone will have developed a gas that will destroy gas that destroys gas masks. Science marches on!
—Washington Post

You can always tell when you are on the wrong road, there are no detour signs.
—Whitsitt Impress

"It's easy to tell if it's a friend or a bill collector at the door."

"How?"
"Just wait a while—and if it's a bill collector he won't go away."
—Christian Science Monitor

Babies no longer suck their thumbs. They seem to know that before long they will need their thumbs if they expect to travel.
—Frankfort Daily

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